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For the Experimenter
and Radio Enthusiast

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All Amateurs are urged to keep these frequencies clear during, and for a period of 15 minutes after, the official Broadcasts.

VK3WI: Sundays, 1100 hours EST, 7196 Kc. and 2000 hours EST 50 and 144 Mc. No frequency checks available from VK3WI. Intra-State working frequency, 7175 Kc.

VK3WI: Sundays, 1130 hours EST, simultaneously on 3598 and 7196 Kc. and re-broadcast on 50 and 144 Mc. bands. Intra-State working frequency 7185 Kc. Individual frequency checks of Amateur Stations given when VK3WI is on the air.

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VK5WI: Sundays, 1000 hours SAST, on 7196 Kc. Frequency checks are given by VK5DW by arrangements only on the 7 and 14 Mc. bands.

VK6WI: Sundays, 0930 hours WAST, on 7196 Kc. No frequency checks available.

VK7WI: Sundays, at 1000 hours EST, on 7196 Kc. and 146.5 Mc. No frequency checks are available.

AMATEUR RADIO

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EDITORIAL

★

Release of the 21 Mc. Band

As members may well remember back in Atlantic City in 1947 a frequency table was decided upon by the International Telecommunication and Radio Conference which would allocate frequencies for all the various types of radio services on an engineering basis.

At this Conference were delegates from every country in the world, meeting together on an international footing in order to arrive at some agreement whereby the radio frequency spectrum as we know it today could be divided up in a systematic manner so that the requirements of all countries could adequately be met.

This in itself was a superhuman task, and it is a credit to mankind that at a conference of this nature where languages create such a difficult obstacle to conversation, a frequency table as is now in existence was possible.

However, despite the presence of the Frequency Table, the implementation of it seemed a remote objective until the Extraordinary Administrative Radio Conference held in Geneva in 1951. At this Conference steps were taken to commence the implementation of the frequency table in that part of the frequency spectrum below 27.5 Mc., the responsibility remaining with Administrations to implement the various transfers of services to frequencies agreed to at the Conference, some of which were to be implemented on certain specified dates.

So far as the Amateur band frequency allocations are concerned for Region 3 (which includes Australia) under the Frequency Table agreed to in 1947 at Atlantic City, we would ultimately lose 50 Kc. in the 7-7.2 Mc. and 14-14.4 Mc. regions, and gain the 21.0-21.450 Mc. frequency allocation.

Over the period since 1947 we have made strenuous approaches to the Australian Administration requesting the implementation of these frequency agreements to which Australia was a signatory. In every instance the Administration Authority has appreciated our approach and given a sympathetic hearing to our requests, but for many reasons—too numerous to recount although well recognised as difficult obstacles against immediate implementation—it has not been possible.

After we became aware of the Agreement reached at the Geneva Radio Conference concerning measures for the implementation of the lower part (below 27.5 Mc.) of the Atlantic City Frequency Allocation Table, we again pressed the Amateurs' case with the Australian Administration.

Arising from our discussions we have every reason to expect that implementation of the Amateur bands within the spectrum encompassed by the Agreement reached at the Geneva Conference will take place about the 1st May, 1952.

We feel justly proud of the fact that we have been instrumental in gaining the implementation of these frequency changes on behalf of the Australian Amateur, and although our two lower frequency bands have been reduced by 50 Kc. on the high end—which of course we all knew would inevitably be so—we have gained a band that should be an excellent DX band as well as an additional band.

—FEDERAL EXECUTIVE.

THE CONTENTS . . .

Low Power 2 Metre Crystal Controlled Transmitter

BY K. B. MITCHELHILL, VK2ANU

In warmer weather most v.h.f. fans and newcomers to v.h.f. bands are usually constructing and overhauling gear for greater activity.

On looking through current radio magazines it is noted that there has been very little space devoted to the construction of gear for the 144 Mc. band in the way of transmitters of the crystal control type. As modulated oscillators are gradually giving way to crystal control and transmitters of better stability, the low power rig here described should be of interest to many in getting to 144 Mc. using a VT501 disposals tube as a series tuned tripler (civil type TT11). Ratings of this tube as known are: 250v. plate, 250v. screen, 6.3v. heater at 0.8 amp. Such tubes were used up to 130 Mc. in airborne v.h.f. equipment.

To most of us the ultimate is to use whatever gear is available in the junk box without spending too much money, as is the case where v.h.f. equipment is concerned. The only outlay in this case is for an 832 and socket. This tube is not by any means the only one that has been successfully used as a final, as the tripler output is ample to drive a pair of 7193s in push-pull.

The main point of interest is firstly to get to 144 Mc. and the method of coupling to the 832 final.

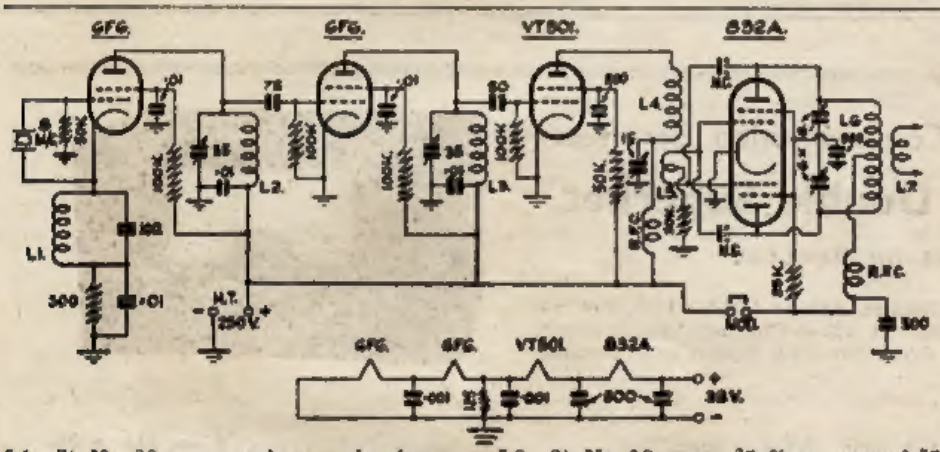
far as various crystals are concerned, especially where crystals are somewhat sluggish.

Next tube in line is the 6F6 doubler; the tuning condenser being mounted on the front panel of the chassis between the 6F6 doubler socket and the VT501 tripler socket to ensure the shortest of leads.

From here the remaining tank circuits are mounted above the chassis. The VT501 is mounted vertically; this allows correct length for the 144 Mc. series tuned coil and room for adjustment. The series tuning condenser is mounted on a metal panel on the front edge of the chassis so that it supports the cold end of the coil and gives sufficient room for the 832 grid coil to come directly off the grid pins for positioning beneath the tripler plate tank.

It is advisable to mount all components up to the VT501 tank circuit. The 832 is then mounted horizontally on a bracket and with the grid coil mounted on the socket, the bracket is then slid along the chassis until a suitable position is found where the grid coil sits directly under the cold end of the tripler plate tank coil. This ensures the shortest of leads.

In the 832 plate tank, the coil is constructed with half inch spacing between the two sections, i.e. the coil is wound



L1—7t. No. 20 s.w.g. on large valve base.
L2—7t. No. 16 s.w.g., 1¼" diam., close wound, self supporting.
L3—4t. No. 16 s.w.g., ¾" diam., spaced ¾".
L4—5t. No. 16 s.w.g., ¾" diam., spaced 1¼".
L5—2t. No. 16 s.w.g., ¾" diam., spaced ¾".
L6—4t. ¼" copper tube, ¾" diam. with ½" space at centre.
L7—2t. No. 16 s.w.g., ¾" diam., spaced 1 turn.

CONSTRUCTIONAL POINTS

The transmitter is constructed on a chassis 16" x 6" x 3" as indicated. The first tube is a 6F6 used as a tritet oscillator with an 8 Mc. crystal tripling to 24 Mc., the plate circuit being fixed tuned by means of a 3-30 pF. air trimmer. The cathode coil is made to plug into a socket mounted on the end plate of the chassis near the oscillator tube socket.

A little time spent in adjustment of the cathode coil will pay dividends as

in two halves with half inch between the two, allowing space for the antenna coupling coil. This coil is mounted directly onto the condenser, which in this case was a modified condenser taken from a TR1143, stripped down to three fixed plates in each stator section with three plates left for the rotor. The condenser is mounted on brackets to bring it to the height of the 832 plate pins and is connected to the plate pins with half inch lengths of copper strip or flattened braid and small Farnstock clips from an old dry battery. The antenna coupling coil is supported on a small ceramic strip, in this case the base of an old ceramic padding condenser.

For neutralising, two lengths of No. 16 s.w.g. enamel wire were soldered to the grid pins, crossed over and continued through insulated bushes in the bracket holding the 832 as far as the top edge of the 832 plates viewed through the glass envelope. These wires are bent relative to the tube elements until there is no further flicker in grid current when the plate tank is tuned through resonance. For neutralising the voltage is removed from the plate and screen of the 832.

The r.f. chokes used were originally taken from an I.F.F. set and are ideal.

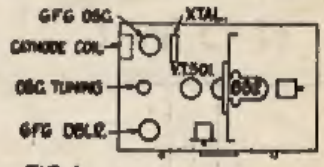


FIG. 1

FIG. 2.

POWER REQUIREMENTS

The circuit diagram shows a series heater circuit as the writer's power supply is derived from a 32 volt lighting plant. Modification for other voltages is a simple matter. The high voltage is obtained from a genemotor delivering 250 volts at 100 Ma.

Total current drawn by the two 6F6s and VT501 tripler is in the vicinity of 50 Ma., allowing the remaining 50 Ma. for operation of the 832. In operation, the 832 is loaded to 40 Ma., being an input of 10 watts.

TUNING

After preliminary adjustments have been made and the various circuits put on frequency with an absorption wavemeter, tuning of this little rig is straight forward. As the output of the VT501 tripler will over-drive the 832, the doubler circuit is detuned so that the final grid drive is 2 Ma. which is found to give most efficient operation. Detuning the doubler circuit does not appear to affect operation in any way as it is better to detune this circuit in preference to the tripler in view of efficient operation.

The only circuits metered are the 832 grid and plate. The modulator used with this little rig is p.p. 6V6s in Class AB1, plate and screen modulating the 832 final.

Mounting of the tripler plate tank is shown in Fig. 2 and the method of mounting the 832 grid coil will be seen from Fig. 1. The coupling is such that both coils are tuned by the tripler plate tank condenser, and the coupling is adjusted by experimentally squeezing the coils until maximum grid drive is obtained.

* "Inglewood," Muscle Creek, Muswellbrook, N.S.W.

TELEVISION MADE EASY

Part viii.—

Interference, and How the Hams Can Check It

BY KEN WALL† AND JOHN JARMAN,* VK3ADA

Let us put the clock forward by a few years and imagine that Australia's long-awaited television service is at last in operation.

Johnny Citizen, having purchased and installed his television receiver, is now enjoying his favourite evening programme, when alas! Just as his favourite strip-tease artist is about to shed her last garment, something goes wrong. A burst of interference makes the picture either invisible, or distorted beyond recognition!

Enraged with disappointment, he must blame somebody and who is a better "sitting target" than Bill, the nearest Ham, who is duly visited. We censor John's "opening address" as Bill opens the door to him.

Now a television receiver is prone to all kinds of interference and quite likely Bill (who could be any reader) is "not guilty." He might not have even been on the air and probably feels like telling John to go and get a better receiver.

Remember, however, that there are other Hams on the air whom John may suspect, unless shown the real cause of the trouble, so that an indifferent attitude on Bill's part may provoke complaints about Ham interference, which are neither justified nor necessary, and which won't help us, as an organisation, to obtain further privileges when we apply for them.

We see, therefore, that Bill's duty is not only to prevent his own rig from causing television interference (abbreviated t.v.i.), but to help the complainant locate the real cause.

Furthermore, all radio shops will probably be closed at this time of night, so that Bill may be the only "radio bloke" available, and any assistance on his part will be appreciated.

Now Bill is not a trained television serviceman and to tamper with a delicate instrument like a television set would be most inadvisable. What can he do? Well, having proceeded to examine John's receiver, he should try and place the fault in one of the following categories:—

1. Simple receiver faults which he can rectify.
2. Serious faults to be fixed only by a television serviceman.
3. Amateur interference.
4. Interference from some other radio station.
5. Interference from faulty electrical appliances.

Now this cannot be done by mere guesswork. It requires careful investigation combined with an elementary knowledge of television theory, and this is just what these articles have been intended to provide.

† 172 Johnson Street, Maffra, Victoria.
* A11426 L.A.C. Jarman, J. B., c/o. A.R.D.U., R.A.A.F., Woomera S., South Australia.

Let us first consider what interference Bill's transmitter **might** have caused.

Since Australian television signals will be on frequencies from 180-204 Mc., Bill's main "bug-bear" will be harmonics and parasitics. We have also learnt that our system will use 25 pictures per second, and 625 lines per picture, which amounts to 15625 lines per second. Now suppose a spurious signal, on a frequency within the television band originates from a Ham Station, using a modulating frequency of 3125 c.p.s. Now the spurious signal will also be modulated at this frequency. How will television receivers respond to it? Well, 3125 is one-fifth of 15625, so that every fifth line will be darkened, so that dark horizontal bars appear across the screen.

In actual practice, of course, the signal will be modulated by a multitude of audio frequencies, so that the bars will not remain steady, but will move vertically, flashing on and off with modulation. A similar effect occurs when the interfering signal **beats** with the required one. If the resultant frequency exceeds 15625, the bars will no longer appear horizontal, but become sloped, and varying in thickness.

Another common form of t.v.i. is the upsetting of the synchronisation. We learned in article vi. that most receivers distinguish the synch. pulses purely by their amplitude, and can therefore mistake any interfering signal of sufficient amplitude, for synchronising signals, so that their deflection oscillators get "out of step." One therefore sees, on the screen, not a steady picture, but a series of pictures, joined end-to-end racing madly across, either horizontally or vertically.

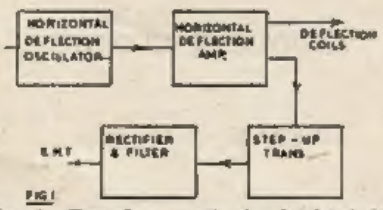


Fig. 1—Popular method of obtaining High Voltage for Tube.

Indirect forms of Ham interference occur where the mains voltage has poor regulation, so that every time Bill presses his key, the lights go dim. The affects on neighbouring television sets will vary, according to design, and here we shall pause, to explain two innovations.

We know that a cathode ray tube requires very high voltage on certain elements, and in a television receiver this is known as e.h.t. (extra high tension) as distinct from the normal h.t. or B plus supply, and methods of producing it vary. Mains transformers are not favoured in television receivers, since their positioning, to prevent their magnetic fields from interfering with the scanning spot, is too critical and introduces design problems.

The familiar a.c.-d.c. circuit, as used in some broadcast receivers, is therefore commonly used and one popular method of producing the e.h.t. is to step up the output of the horizontal deflection oscillator as outlined in Fig. 1.

In receivers using this circuit a change in mains voltage may cause a change in either picture brightness, picture width, or both.

The other modern source of trouble is the automatic gain control circuit, incorporated in some receivers. In a vision receiver, the a.g.c. voltage is applied to the r.f. and i.f. stages as in a sound receiver, but it is obtained in a different way. We are familiar with circuits in which the a.g.c. voltage is proportional to the **average** value of the signal. Now, in television, this voltage is made proportional to the **peak** amplitude of the signal or, in other words, the amplitude of the synch. pulses. Special circuits must therefore be used, one type being shown in Fig. 2.

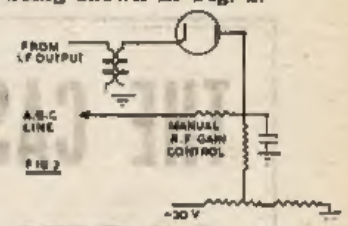


Fig. 2.—Simple A.G.C. Circuit for Vision Receiver.

The values of the components in any a.g.c. circuit are very critical, and if incorrect, such circuit will be affected by any impulse interference and any change in mains voltage. Either may weaken or completely "blank out" the picture.

There are other cases when the interference may be the fault of the receiver, rather than the Ham. Some faults may cause a receiver to respond to signals from a Ham transmitter that is operating quite normally. These include:—

1. Cathode ray tube grid picking up 80 metre band signals directly.
2. R.f. stages admitting signals within i.f. band.
3. Generation (by mixer) of harmonics of Ham signals, within i.f. band.

Another fault, for which innocent Hams are often blamed, is the "leakage" of sound signals into the receiver's picture circuit, since this produces the same "dark bar" effects as Ham interference.

Overseas, these faults have often resulted from poor receiver design, but in Australia this is less likely. Our receivers will be designed upon the very latest advice from overseas engineers who, in their years of experience, have had to contend with all kinds of interference (Hams included) and will surely take all precautions against same.

Bill is therefore likely to strike this trouble only on three occasions:—

1. When receiver has been tampered with.
2. When receiver has deteriorated with age.
3. In a home-built set.

Continuing the story, let us first take the case when Bill has been on the air,

and might have been causing the trouble. He must first ascertain whether his transmitter is responsible, which is done by arranging for a fellow Ham to operate his rig while Bill watches the screen. If the interference coincides with the keying, sure enough Bill's transmitter is interfering, **but** may not be at fault. It could be one of the receiver faults listed above.

In any case, however, if Bill sees the interference pattern he will first photograph it for future reference. This is not essential, but quite a good plan, as we will shortly see.

Bill now investigates, to see whether other receivers in the neighbourhood are displaying the same fault. If not, John's receiver is to blame. It is appropriate to mention here a certain receiver fault which may be misleading, namely the "leakage" of the local oscillator output into the aerial circuit. This causes the aerial to radiate a signal at low frequency, which beats with the required signal in other sets, often causing the same "dark bar" effect as Ham interference. In this case the offending set will be the only one **not** displaying the trouble.

In any case, Bill's next job, after having established which set is faulty, is to link up with the television serviceman, who repairs the receiver, showing him the photo and making test transmissions at the serviceman's request, to facilitate correction of the fault.

Now take the case when Bill finds that **all** local receivers experience the same fault, coinciding with his transmissions. Yes, Bill has faulty rig! He will now thoughtfully stay off the air during television programmes (which only occupy limited hours) until the trouble is cured.

He has wisely studied these articles and now, applying the theory given, endeavours to figure out just how his transmitter could be causing such interference. It may be something quite new and different from any effect described in this series. On such occasions a few minutes discussion with a television serviceman may solve the problem completely (particularly if a photo is available), at the same time improving Bill's knowledge of interference and its prevention. In all cases, Bill's task of eliminating the trouble will be made much easier if he can first work out how the effects are caused, even if he can only do so with assistance.

Suppose now that the effects do not occur when Bill's rig goes on the air. His rig may be innocent, but don't be hasty. The fault may be intermittent.

Finally comes the case when the interference occurs when Bill's rig is not even on the air. Breathing a sigh of relief, Bill now examines the pattern, or visual effects, and considers the possible causes, paying special attention to the most probable ones. Of the five categories given earlier in this article, which do the effects suggest?

Could it possibly be another Amateur Station? Could it be some other radio station, such as aircraft, aerodrome control tower, radio-equipped cars, etc.?

Do John's neighbours experience the same trouble? If not, John's set must be faulty, but must he engage a serviceman or can Bill fix it? Bill now gives the set a brief examination. Any audible interference suggests a faulty set, since a properly adjusted f.m. receiver gives noise-free reception. How are the power leads and aerial feeder? Any poor connections or intermittent shorts? Is the aerial feeder insecure, and swaying in the wind?

One fault, which a Ham can often cure is the "ghosts" caused by multi-path reception. We know that radio waves can be reflected by certain objects, such as buildings, etc., and quite often a television signal reaches a receiver by a number of reflected paths, in addition to its normal direct path from the transmitter. The longer the path, the later and weaker the reflected signal will be on reaching the receiver.

Each picture impulse therefore reaches the receiver not once, but several times, becoming progressively weaker, so that the scanning spot, as it travels from left to right, is modulated several times by the same picture impulse. Each object in the picture therefore appears to have a series of images or "ghosts" placed behind it. In Fig. 3, for instance, the three waves each carrying the same picture impulse would reach the receiver in the order a, b, c.

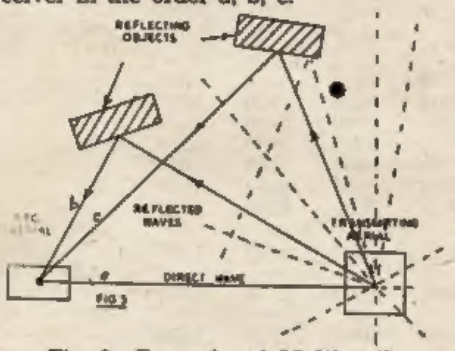


Fig. 3—Example of Multi-path Reception.

If a directional aerial is in use, this effect can often be cured by rotating the aerial to a position where it will pick up only the direct wave, so that the "ghosts" disappear. Remember that in Australia, all television signals will be **horizontally** polarised.

Having decided that the trouble is a case for a serviceman, Bill will "link up" with the latter, showing him the photo. Bill's description of the effects may be very useful to him and Bill, in turn, can learn the cause of the trouble for future reference.

Finally comes the case when neighbours share the same trouble, proving that there's a source of interference in the district, which is not a radio station of any kind (according to symptoms). What does the pattern suggest? Different forms of interference produce different patterns. Ignition, for instance, produces short horizontal bars all over the screen, while diathermy apparatus (used by doctors) produces a pattern like herringbone cloth. It would be hasty, however, to attempt to identify the interference by the visible effects alone. These must be associated with other observations.

Bill now produces his pocket book and asks John some relevant questions. "How long have these effects been apparent and at what times of day?" "Do they occur on all channels (or television carrier frequencies)?" "How long do they last on each occasion?" "Have they become progressively worse over a period?"

With this information, coupled with his visual observations, Bill now tries to work out the possible causes and where to look for them. Could they be in John's house? Or in any of the neighbours' homes? Is there an adjacent hospital, surgery, garage, or industrial plant? Electric motors and automatic switching devices are all potential trouble-makers.

The final phase is a tour of investigation, continued until the source of interference is found. Bill, of course, need not do this himself, but he should direct the complainant to a party capable of doing so and assist to the best of his ability.

Ross A. Hull Memorial Contest 1951-2 Results

The Federal Contest Committee has pleasure in reporting the results of the 1951-52 Ross Hull Memorial Contest for Interstate working on 50 Mc.

Support for the contest was greater than in previous years and 45 logs were received. Altogether some 200 stations took part in the contest at some time or another—an indication of the popularity of 50 Mc. and of the interest which the contest aroused.

Most of the comments received were enthusiastic and the contestants apparently enjoyed themselves. Some thought that the contest should be of shorter duration with, perhaps, a limit on the number of repeat contacts. An increase in the number of points for short-skip contacts may be desirable, e.g., VK3-VK7 and VK2-VK4 contacts are comparatively rare.

Our congratulations go to Hugh Lloyd VK5BC who wins the Ross Hull Memorial Trophy this year with the fine score of 2521 points for 438 contacts. He was closely followed by Roland Everingham VK6BO with 238 QSOs and 2385 points, and then last year's winner, Fred Stirk VK2ABC, with 2010 points.

Included in 6BO's winning score were 27 QSOs with New Zealand, while VK6DW had 23 contacts with ZL. Russ Coleston VK9XK created a great deal of interest by coming on for the contest and working all districts except VK8 and ZL4.

From across the Tasman, ZL2BJ, ZL1WW and ZL2DS put up excellent performances, working all districts, and we hope to see even more New Zealand participation next year.

In addition to the Ross A. Hull Memorial Trophy, to be held this year by VK5BC, certificates have been awarded to district winners, viz.: VK2ABC, VK3IM, VK4BT, VK5BC, VK6BO, VK7LZ, VK9XK, ZL1WW, ZL2BJ, ZL3PN.

Full results appear below:—

VK5BC	2521	VK4RY	783	VK2JX	267
VK6BO	2385	VK5MA	606	VK3PG	241
VK2ABC	2010	VK3JE	593	VK5KL	230
VK6DW	1704	VK3ABA	525	VK6HK	227
VK9XK	1648	VK2ADS	488	VK2ABR	185
VK5HD	1637	VK4NG	379	VK2XO	168
VK6WG	1607	VK2AMV	356	VK5AJ	129
VK4BT	1603	VK7LZ	344	VK2UC	116
VK2WJ	1459	VK5JD	313	VK7BQ	113
VK4KK	1329	VK4XJ	288	VK4AW	71
VK2VW	1054	VK3GM	275	VK4BG	47
VK3IM	938	VK7AB	271	VK3GE	44
VK2WH	814			VK2AC	40
ZL2BJ	1339	ZL2DS	1202	ZL3PN	337
ZL1WW	1224	ZL2HP	607	ZL3OU	7
		ZL3ADO	463		

ACCURATE FREQUENCY TRANSMISSIONS FROM VK3WI

The next Accurate Frequency Transmission will take place on Thursday evening, 29th May, 1952, on the 3.5 Mc. band. Details of the operating procedure and times of operation will be found on page 5 of the January, 1952, issue of this magazine.

FIFTY MEGACYCLES AND ABOVE

Compiled by J. K. RIDGWAY, VK3CR.

NEW SOUTH WALES

The March meeting of the V.H.F. Group held at Science House was devoted to a lecture on a.v.c. and its application. The lecture was very capably given by Mr Walter Shuerer 2AWU, of A.W.A. Some very interesting points were raised during the lecture and subsequent questions and answers which show that a.v.c. is a subject which is not quite so straightforward as it looks.

Present at the meeting were two country visitors, John 2AMV, from Forbes, and Norman Moody, from Coonamble. Both visitors were made welcome, country members visiting the city should remember the date of the V.H.F. Group meeting as the v.h.f. boys are always pleased to see country members. The meetings are held on the first Friday in every month, at Science House, Gloucester Street, City.

The autumn field day coincided with the Victorian Group's attempt to pass a signal from VK7 to as far north as possible, but it was considered too late to change the arrangements for the VK2 field day in order that VK2 could co-operate. It is hoped, however, that something along the lines suggested by VK3 might be possible later in the year. Interested parties in VK3 might look out for 2MQ or 2ANF on the 7 Mc. band in order that some preliminary arrangements might be discussed.

56 Mc. News. With the passing of the DX season activity has waned on this band and news is scarce. Tropospheric propagation conditions seem to follow after the decline of the sporadic E conditions and contacts from the city to the Newcastle area have been very good. Stations heard from the north include 2ADT, 2ANU, 2VU, 2BZ and 2AHA. It goes without saying that 2RU, from Gosford, has been putting in the usual S9 signal in the Sydney area.

2HE finally made contact with 2ADT after much trying at the wrong times or when the other one wasn't there! The half cubical quad antenna gave a very good account of itself. 2PB has gone all QRO with 50 watts to a pair of 807s and finds they need plenty of drive to make them behave. 2AJR finally got a crystal mike but now finds he doesn't need one, as one station at least can copy him with no microphone connected. No prizes offered for the solution of that one. 2LY, ex-2AFL, ex-2LY, having returned to VK2 has got his old call back again and is active on the band again.

144 Mc. News: Conditions on 144 Mc. have been very good with extended ground wave working to the north and south showing excellent results. 2GU, at Canberra, is active again, having cleared up the trouble in his Tx. His frequency is 144.03 Mc. in the country zone and he may be heard frequently calling Sydney stations at 8.30 p.m. The drill is to listen for five minutes and then Sydney stations call 2GU for five minutes. 2ADT has been putting an excellent signal into Sydney during the evenings. Jack usually tunes across six whilst calling and answers on two. 2KR has also been a good signal in Sydney and very nearly made a full two-way contact with 2ADT. We understand Cec will present a cup to Jack if the contact is made! What sort of cup Cec?

Activity in the west has been less than usual, with 2NS away on holidays and 2WH busy getting his new final under control. 2TA and 2TC at Young are both putting in some good work and Jim, 2TC, is building a cascode converter for the band which, along with his new beam and proposed QQE06 final, should make quite a contribution to his attempt to contact Sydney. In the city, 2AJZ is still building crystal locked converters. The latest one is for portable work to be used with a Command Tx. His near neighbour, 2ABB, who is currently holidaying at Katoomba is watching Harry with interest and seems about to launch off into something rather special in the way of Rx's himself. 2WJ has just finished a new portable rig using 6J6s in a c.c. circuit which performs very well. A new call is 2ATO. John is located at Drummoyne and has been heard many times in the past from his brother's station. Welcome to the band John.

Horrie (Marco Polo) Lapthorne, 2HL, is organising another trip, this time to Barrington Tops. Gear for 144 Mc. with 50w and also 7 Mc. gear will be taken. The party will include Charlie 2NP, Cec Cronin and Graham Allan. They hope to make contact with many of the country v.h.f. enthusiasts from their vantage point 5,100 ft. above sea level.

2HL has also struck a very good blow for Ham Radio by carrying out a test on behalf of the Radio Research Board. The said R.R.B. doubted the possibility of a path existing between Sydney and Camden on bands above 100 Mc. 2HL trotted off complete with 6J6 xtal rig and ARR2 Rx plus observers from the R.R.B. and proceeded to make easy contact with Sydney, receiving 2AH and 2ANF at very good signal strength, thus dumbfounding the experts! Good for you Horrie.

576 Mc News: Once again news is scarce from this band for the usual reason. 2ABZ has his Rx under control at last and is now able to receive most of the Sydney stations. 2HL has been the 144 Mc. round up station listening on 576 with most of the active Sydney boys wandering in and out on 576. Current shortage of lighthouse tubes is embarrassing to those with ASB7 and 8 Rx's, but quite a few of the Rx's are in operation. Tx's are still of the push pull RL18 variety but recently some interesting information has come to light on push pull and push push multipliers using diodes, e.g. EA50, so perhaps stabilised transmissions on 576 are not far off. With the consequent narrowing of Rx bandpass this will allow, results may be somewhat more encouraging.

With these notes your scribe (2ANF) will be completing his year of duty as correspondent. As yet, the new correspondent has not been elected, but he will be writing the notes from next month onwards. It is hoped that the next scribbler receives the full support of all those on the v.h.f. bands. Remember to pass on any information worth repeating. If, when you heard it you were interested, others will be also.

VICTORIAN V.H.F. GROUP

Next Group meeting is the 21st May at the rooms. Listen to 3WI for details of the evening's activities. The March meeting was well attended and was fully occupied with election of office-bearers for the ensuing year, reports on field days, arrangements for the April field day and progress reports on the 144 and 50 Mc. rigs for 3WI. The office-bearers for the next year are: Chairman, 3JO; Sec., 3AJG, Vice-Chairman, 3YS, Asst. Sec., 3OJ. Reports by portable stations were given on their activities on the field days of Feb. and March and it was seen that most activity was on 144 Mc., some stations were active on 50 Mc., but there were no reports of activity on 288 Mc. and 576 Mc. Weather conditions for the April field day were good although there was a thunderstorm during the afternoon. Portable stations were 3FO, Mt. Dandenong, 3ABA Mt. Tarrangower, 3ACH Mt. Blackwood, 3GM Mt. Buninyong, 3AEB Mt. Macedon, 3JO Kinglake, 3YR Sorrento, 3ADU Keilor, 3RR Reed's Lookout, Grampians, and 3UI who went portable near the Waranga Basin when the power supply at home failed.

Next field day season, 7PF hopes to operate portable from Mt. Barrow from where no difficulty is expected in contacting VK3. 3IM and 3QO reported on progress they have made with the 144 Mc. and 50 Mc. installations for 3WI and their efforts have brought these a further stage nearer completion. Apart from field days, activity on the bands has been very slight, several stations, including yours truly (3JO), have been very inactive of late.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

V.h.f. enthusiasts will be pleased to learn that the 144 Mc. contact between 6BO and 5GL was repeated a few weeks after the first contact and that 5QR also made contact with 6BO. Fine work all round. There are reasons to believe that March is the best time to make an all out try to interstate working on 144 Mc. and an endeavour to get parties in each State with equipment ready and tested to co-operate for a series of tests over a week-end or two in March, 1953.

A break through on 50 Mc. one night during March to VK2 gave the boys a break from local rag-chews. At the Royal Adelaide Exhibition great use is made of 50 Mc. by link stations relaying answers to calls by VK5WI on 14 Mc., thereby overcoming the terrific interference in reception caused by all the electrical appliances operating at the Exhibition. Self rostered nightly, and doing excellent work, is 5GL, 5LW and 5HD. A 288 Mc. link has not been so successful. 5WI on 50 Mc. was heard QSOing two VK2s.

5QR re-building i.f. Rx, has separate Tx for 50, 144, and 288 Mc., all c.c. 5GL busy almost nightly as v.h.f. link for 5WI at Exhibition. 5RO has put up a good score in local v.h.f. contest and should have a handy lead. 5MK shifted QTH and for time will use a 5KL Special (antenna on rotary clothes line).—VK5KL.

TASMANIA

144 Mc. News: Around Hobart this band is the most popular, a CQ generally results in a round table rag-chew. After using a mod osc. for some time, 7JD went QRT and came up c.c. At the moment a converter v. superhet is keeping the referee "Tiny" on his toes. The TR1143 gave 7OM some strife, but he has it working very nicely now; about time for that lecture on same Bob! Sure the other boys with them would appreciate it. 7AF just finished v.h.f. grid dipper which should speed up the remodelling of a T1135 Tx and R1225 Rx, hope to hear you soon Bob. Two mobile units in use by 7DH and 7LE make interesting contacts for fixed stations. Both are c.c. and run about 5w. input.

On 6th April 7LE and 7OM went to Mt. Wellington, while up north 7LZ and 7PF both took equipment to 7EX's hill, with hopes of relaying to VK3. Signals between north and south were 9 plus, but 7LZ and 7PF were unable to contact VK3. We think there must be a gremlin around as one circuit in the link is always dead. However 7LE-7OM also worked 7JD, 7AJ and 7DH who was mobile at Blackman's Bay. Signals between 7LZ and 7PF's on 7EX's hill and 7KB at Burnie were R5 without the antenna on the Rx.

Going up the mountain, the 12v battery in the boot of 7LE's car turned over. Results, two thirsty Hams, as the acid was diluted with the contents of one flask. Just as well your knowledge covers a wide "scope" Bob or your 3 element beam repair may not have been as easy. Len managed to pull the beam in half. Whose sig were you chasing when that happened Len? The Hobart gang are awaiting a signal from 7MY at Sandford with interest.

Group around Tx and Rx set up on the hill near 7EX's Tx on 6th April when contact was made with Hobart on 144 Mc. From left (in front) 7PF, 7LZ, Associate G. Compton, 7GM; at rear, 7AM (near Tx), Master R. Frith, and 7LX.

Block by courtesy of Launceston "Examiner."

DX NOTES BY VK4QL*

Last year I made comment that the bottom of the "DX Bucket" had been reached. If somebody had said, "You haven't heard anything yet," they would have been aptly referring to the present DX conditions. One has usually been able to find one band useless, but others to occupy his DX hours, but that condition no longer exists. 4CC told me last year to work all the DX I could then, as 1952 would not produce much. From your Crystal Ball Clive, when do you expect the bands to show some improvement?

The band survey, with stations worked shown *, and times in GMT Z time):—

3.5 Mc.: 2BA seemed to do very well in the A.R.R.L. Contest, his contacts being unknown, but the first week-end, he had a multiplier of 10. Just before the contest I could work Ws OK, yet in the contest two Ws and a KL7 were the sum total. 3CP worked all W districts except W6 on the 16th. 7RK found static very severe but could not hear any of the Ws that others were working. 3GW found one week-end OK, the other of little help. 3YP heard G6CJ, G3HTQ, OZ1BY and SM3ACW I ran a sked with ZS3K, and although I heard him, no contact could be made. DU6RG and ZK2AA were also heard.

7 Mc.: Although in this neck of the woods, not much success was attained, others found it profitable but erratic just the same. I could hear strong W sigs between 0800z and 0900z once but its a struggle to hear a W or VE at any time now. The Europeans and Africans were very patchy. Just the same, 3CP worked FA8, HB9, YU3, G, GW, LB4VB (Antarctica), DL, ZE3JP, I, OK, SM, F, AP4UAK, VP7NT, SP3PF, KZ5CS. On the 8th, between 0700z and 0810z, six Gs and HB9 were contacted. Athol also heard ZD1AC, CX1KB KP4KD, EA5DG, ZD2GAY, CN8MI, ZC4XP, FF8AG, UQ2KAA, PY2QW, PY6DU, ZB1BQ, EA9HE, the whole being an impressive list. 5DF, who has a two el. fixed beam on Europe, lists YU*, SM7*, F8*, F9*, G5*, HB9* DL7*, CE1KN, 1S1AHK, 4X4DE, 4X4DC, EA5DF, ZS6OW, VP8CDI. Is just getting into his DX stride being a DX 'fledgling' 7RK heard some very strong sigs from the Ws in the contest, also G5RI 0700z. YV5DE, KX6AH, Ray found, like me, KX6AH does not answer VK calls. He thought he had a nice catch in SM8BNA, but found he was marine 200 miles from Adelaide. He was strong here too. Ray 4QL: ZD2GAJ who could not hear a reply to his repeated CQs, FF8AG*, KJ6AR, ZK2AB*, 5A2TT W3* and W4 2100z. KZ5CS*, SU1FD. KC6QY VP5BH (Caymans), G3BKF and G6BS 0745z. ZS3K* VS2LP*

14 Mc: Nobody content with the performance of this old standby, and all contributors voice the same opinion. 2ACX, who by the way is not changing his QTH after all, lists a contact with VP8AJ, Graham Land, which gave him 222/210. Arthur received cards from EA0AB and FB8XX. 3CX was one who found some Europeans, also HK and LZ1AS. Received QSLs from OQ5VD. EQ3FM 4EL had trouble maintaining his sked with G5ZA, but managed to reach his 600th contact with him before he proceeded to his home on leave. 5HI snared JA0LJ, VR3C, KC6QY and received cards from EA6AM, KB6AQ and IS1AHK. 7RK has little to raise the eye brows for this band other than PY1AP 0230z, TI2RC. 9XK, who will now be away for two months, did not like the conditions much, especially with the approach of the B.E.R.U. contest, but Russ hit a purple patch on 14 Mc. for the Gs early. Plenty could be heard calling him, yet I could not get one. When last heard Russ had about 200 contacts. 4QL did not hear much, other than KS6AA, YN1AA PK5AA*, VP1AA*, VP6AA*, ZK2AB*, VQ4HJP* 0430z, LZ1AS, PZ1OY

28 Mc. This band like a morgue. 7RK heard one or two Ws in the DX Contest, as did I. Other than that, Pacific stations were the limit.

KV4AA gives some help for the "gen" section this month. ZL1BY has worked through to the Ws on 160 mx. Dick said over there they are expecting to get the 21 Mc band on the 1st May. He gives the following new prefix allocations. 5A2T for Amateur use in Tripolitania, 5A2C in Cyrenaica, and 5A2F in Fezzan. KV4AA worked quite a few Ws on 160 mx in the A.R.R.L. Contest and he finished up with a multiplier of 90. 4DO was heard working 5A2TV, who gave his QTH as Abadan, which does not follow the previously mentioned allocation. JCP said TT1CW is quite OK, and YA4UU has been heard, but no known VK contacts. According to "QST," the EK1 prefix is to be changed to CN2. Additional prefixes to those in a recent issue of "A.R." are JYA-JYZ. Jordan, JZA-JZZ Dutch New Guinea. PK5AA told me he is shortly returning home. Am still waiting on his long overdue QSL. I had a look at 21 Mc. this month, and there are quite a few high speed stations in the band, some using U.S. prefixes, so it can be reasonably expected they will disappear on the release of the band to U.S. Amateurs.

● The thought for the month, which must be in the minds of us all these days, is the wish for a very early improvement in DX conditions.

* Flt./Lt. F. T. Hine, No. 10 (G.R.) Squadron, R.A.A.F., Townsville, Queensland.

DX C.C. LISTING

PHONE

Call	No.	Ctr.	Call	No.	Ctr.
VK3EE	10	158	VK4KS	9	135
VK3JD	1	155	VK3LN	11	132
VK4HR	13	155	VK4FJ	21	129
VK3BZ	3	154	VK6DD	6	126
VK6RU	2	149	VK3JE	7	123
VK6KW	4	145	VK4WJ	17	122

C.W.

Call	No.	Ctr.	Call	No.	Ctr.
VK3BZ	6	200	VK3CX	26	140
VK3FH	15	177	VK3KB	10	139
VK4HR	8	170	VK6RU	18	138
VK4EL	9	167	VK6BO	33	133
VK2EO	3	153	VK2GW	16	132
VK3CN	1	151	VK6RX	23	132
VK6SA	28	150	VK4DO	20	129
VK4FJ	29	146	VK3KK	30	125
VK3VW	4	143	VK4QL	36	123
VK2QL	5	143	VK4RF	11	123

OPEN

Call	No.	Ctr.	Call	No.	Ctr.
VK3BZ	4	213	VK4KS	24	149
VK4HR	7	200	VK3FL	28	143
VK6RU	8	183	VK3MC	8	139
VK3JE	12	180	VK3OP	19	137
VK3HG	3	171	VK6DD	22	136
VK2D1	2	170	VK3LN	29	135
VK4FJ	32	170	VK2ADE	25	133
VK3KX	1	167	VK2AHA	9	128
VK4EL	10	167	VK4WF	40	128
VK6KW	13	165	VK2AHM	20	125
VK4DO	15	157	VK2NS	18	123

FEDERAL, QSL, and DIVISIONAL NOTES

FEDERAL

UNIFORM SCORING SYSTEM FOR INTERNATIONAL CONTESTS

Arising from discussions of the Federal Council of the W.I.A. at the 1951 Annual Federal Convention, proposals were directed to the I.A.R.U. (see F.E. notes, December, 1951) with reference to the adoption of a standard numbering system by all member societies when conducting International DX Contests, and that such a numbering system be that which is used in the VK ZL International DX Contest from time to time.

These proposals—numbers 77 and 78 respectively—were circulated to all member societies of the I.A.R.U through its constitutional medium The Calendar, for a vote for or against the adoption of such a system.

Federal Executive is now pleased to advise that the proposals were accepted by a large majority of those who voted. Whilst some of the overseas member societies have not agreed to the proposal, and quite a number have not been interested enough to cast a vote at all, the following societies have signified their intention of accepting our standard scoring system. Into this category falls our friend and neighbour society, the N.Z.A.R.T., this is very pleasing for it now removes one of the biggest obstacles we have encountered in trying to standardise the VK ZL Contest rules irrespective of whether the W.I.A. or the N.Z.A.R.T is running the contest.

American Radio Relay League—A.R.R.L.
Club de Radio Africionados de Guatemala C.R.A.G.
Hong Kong Amateur Radio Transmitting Society H.K.A.R.T.S.
Irish Radio Transmitters Society I.R.T.S.
Liga de Amadores Brasileiros de Radio Emissao—L.A.B.R.E.
Norsk Radio Relae Liga (Norway)—N.R.R.L.
New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters—N.Z.A.R.T.
Osterreichischer Versuchssenderverband (Austria)—O.V.S.V.
Radio Club Argentino—R.C.A.
Radio Club de Chile—R.C.C. (Chile)
Radio Club Dominicano (Dominican Republic) R.C.D.
Radio Club Uruguay—R.C.U.
Reseau des Emetteurs Francais—R.E.F.
Reseau Luxembourgeois des Amateurs d'Ondes Courtes—R.L.
Radio Society of Great Britain—R.S.G.B.
South African Radio League—S.A.R.L.
Sveriges Sandareamatorer (Sweden)—S.S.A.
Union de Radioficionados Espanoles (Spain) U.R.E.
Vereeniging voor Experimenteel Radio Onderzoek in Nederland—V.E.R.O.N.
Wireless Institute of Australia—W.I.A.

The A.R.R.L. has intimated its agreement with the principle of adopting a standard numbering system internationally and will make every effort to abide by it. However, they have reserved the right to discard the W.I.A system should it prove unsatisfactory for use in the A.R.R.L. Annual DX Competition where a number of contestants regularly make more than a thousand contacts and the use of the W.I.A. system may cause some confusion.

ZL OFFICIAL BROADCAST

The official broadcast of the N.Z.A.R.T is radiated on 3960 Kc. at 9 p.m. (New Zealand time) on the evening of the last Sunday in each month. The official station call sign is ZL3IY.

NEW PHONE-C.W. "LABRE" CONTEST ON 21 Mc. BAND DURING FOUR WEEK-ENDS OF JULY, 1952

This is a special opportunity for Hams and SWLs the world over, to observe the conditions of this new band listening in to the PY's work.

Brazilian regulations having enforced the 21 Mc. band for phone and c.w. operation, according to Atlantic City's International Conference of 1947, a very interesting contest is now being announced by Labre Headquarters, for the month of July, 1952.

PY stations will be trying to obtain the maximum possible coverage of the 8,500,000 square kilometers of their territorial area over the 21 Mc. band, while the Amateurs and SWLs of every country are being invited to participate in this interesting contest as "listeners in," thus qualifying for special awards according to the reports submitted to the Brazilian League.

The new band affords a wide segment for work in c.w. (A1), extending from 21000 to 21450 Kc., and provides a sub-band for phone work (A3) from 21150 to 21450 Kc.

The contest will comprise four periods, corresponding to the week-ends of July next, according to the following schedule: Phone Section, starting at 0301 on Saturdays, July 5 and 19, ending at 0300 on Mondays, July 7 and 21 (GMT). C.W. Section, starting at 0301 on Saturdays, July 12 and 26, ending at 0300 on Mondays, July 14 and 28 (GMT).

Amateurs of any country outside the PY area, irrespective of class or category, licensee or otherwise, may partake in this contest as "listeners in," and are invited to send their reports to Labre Headquarters, with the following data: date, time (GMT), call sign of PY station calling, call sign of PY station called, and series of figures sent by calling station.

"Listeners in" will be credited two points for every correct copy, and they may copy the same PY station as many times as heard, provided there is a difference of, at least, two hours between each notation.

Participants as "listeners in" who will obtain the greatest credit in points will be awarded a special certificate, the same applying to those immediately below in number of points, as second place, in each country.

Logs shall be sent to Labre Headquarters, P.O. Box 2353, Rio de Janeiro, D.F., Brasil, in time to be in their possession up to October 31, 1952, ultimate date for reception.

Judgment of this contest will be made by Labre's Awarding Committee, and their decision will be final.

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FEDERAL QSL BUREAU

RAY JONES, VK3RJ, MANAGER

The Danish Amateur Society (E.D.R.), who have been appointed to conduct the 1952 All European DX Contest, advise that the contest will form a part of the E.D.R. 25th Jubilee celebrations. Preliminary notification of the dates of the contest are given as follows. C.W. Section -0001 GMT, Dec. 6, to 2400 GMT, Dec. 7, 1952. Phone Section -0001 GMT, Dec. 13, to 2400 GMT Dec. 14. Further details and reminders will be given throughout the year.

Robbie, VK3QZ, who is currently signing VK2QZ P/3 from the Trobriand Isles., after cursing the continuous rainfall of that area, states he will be leaving for the Solomons early in April and expects to remain in that locality until May. QTH will be Honiora.

VK1RF who served a term at Macquarie Isld. has come up for a second serve. This time Reg will be at Heard Island. Presumably he will again sign VK1RF.

'Twas my pleasure to receive words from Bill Mitchell, VK3UM, ex-Hon. Secretary Federal Executive W.I.A., prior to departing to England in May, 1950. Bill and family expect to return to VK around July of this year and has enjoyed his sojourn in England. Has done no radio from G, but has spent any spare time fishing for salmon and trout with the assistance of a new Vauxhall Velox. Presume that comes to VK with him on return. On the way over Bill met VS7ES, VS7JW, VU2GB, VU2FU, and others. He has since met many renowned ham personalities in England. A card from G8VB followed Bill to England and purported to confirm a QSO on 3.5 Mc. c.w. on 12th November, 1950. As Bill was already in England on that date it appears that G8VB has mistaken the call sign unless Bill's call has been pirated. G8VB, a good scout and father of Bob Simmons, ex-VS4SR of Labuan, only requires a card from Oceania for his 80 metre W.A.C. and is anxious to identify the station with whom he contacted. Should this ring a bell with any VK station, please forward the card to G8VB pronto. G8VB also only requires an Oceania contact for his phone W.A.C. on 3.5 Mc. and requests VK stations to keep a look out for him on 3795 Kc. every night from 0001-0400 GMT and requests a call on c.w. if unable to raise him on phone. He is looking for VKs and ZLs particularly. Further details of the abovementioned "QSO" with "VK3UM" are RST 459 and the freq. was 3515 Kc. Check your logs chaps.

A letter from a Japanese SWL dated 2nd Jan., 1952, gives the latest position in that country. I quote: "J.A.R.L. is publication CQ that is organ of J.A.R.L. The contents of the book is receive and DX guide in chief. Tx description is not. But my many friends have a Tx the extent of 100 watt input which use 807 p.p. and it is prepare oneself for on the air. Sometimes we are surprise find a Japanese Ham's undercover station in the sky, example, C2AP, C2PO, C2TK and J2PDX, J2YL, etc., about one hundred. I feeling deep regret on these stations. They are arrest by officers of Wireless."

Further news from Ron Mould, VK9FM, of Madang, indicates that Ron is still not on the air from that locale due to tardiness in arrival of gear from the South. Ron was pleasantly surprised recently by a visit from Russ VK9XK, when the lighthouse maintenance ship pulled in at Madang for a day prior to its departure for Rabaul. Ron also sends me regards from ex-P.M.G. telegs. Charlie McGovern, Ian Parsons, and Sid Hulse, who are now operators for D.C.A. in the Islands. Ron pays a tribute to the operating ability of these chaps and wishes he had more of them, I bet he does. Ron expects to regain the mainland about March, 1953, and intends motoring from Brisbane to Perth via all mainland capitals, and is keen to take in as many W.I.A. functions, fields days, etc., as possible. We will all be pleased to meet both Ron and XYL Gina.

A large number of cards are to hand from FA8CR. Many of these date back to 1949, and help to restore one's faith in humanity.

Speaking of late cards, Treb, B.E.R.S.195, in his usual bright budget of news mentions receiving a card from VR2AK (now VK2ANZ) after five years! He also mentions that SM5AQV is looking for VKs on 3.5 Mc. particularly on 3535 to 3590 Kc. c.w. between 1930 and 2030 GMT on Saturdays and Sundays. Treb adds that he is hearing fine DX on 80 around 2000-2030 GMT. Among the Europeans he has heard are SM5AQV, DL1VU, F8TQ, SL6AM, 5L7CA, G2HKG, HB9BX, HB9EL, DL3LK and SM6AZY.

Ron Mould VK9FM, in a further letter additional to an earlier par in these notes, states that the following Hams who have left the Islands are now located as follows: VK9GB, Arch Barrie, 44 Mt. Eden Rd., Mt. Eden, Auckland, N.Z.; VK9QK, Ted Roberts, c/o. Radio Workshops, Mascot, N.S.W.; VK9YY, Bill Watson, c/o. Hobart Radio, Hobart, Tas. Ron states that the following Hams are still in the territory but not known to be active: VK9RM, VK9DC, VK9BI, VK9CS and VK9RT. Ron makes a couple of requests. Wants any info on establishing an Emergency Network and also the date of the "QST" that has the "gen" on hotting up the BC348N or better still a loan of the particular copy. Can anyone assist?

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NEW SOUTH WALES

NORTHERN SUBURBS

Thanks to Harold 2AQP, the following from the Northern Beaches area. Bill 2WF is now the proud possessor of a rotary W8JK beam. Harry ex-2WO has left this part of the world and is now operating from Townsville under the call of 4XH. Warren 2ASM has changed his QTH to Dee Why. Chic 2ALB spending most of his time on his SX28 Rx, heard on 40 occasionally. Tom 2KX and Harry 2AHZ not very active these days. Heard Fred 2AJM on 14 Mc. discussing the forthcoming marriage of his daughter. From John 2ANF we hear that Drummoyne has a new Amateur in John 2ATO who is active on 40, 20, 6 and 2 mx; congrats John and a hearty welcome to Amateur Radio. Keith 2AOA going to Kangaroo Valley for a holiday after Easter; will be active with portable rig on 40 mx. Barry 2AHB, of Kingsford, holidaying with 1RT in Blue Mountains and is operating on 40 and 2 mx. 2ARG has a new boat—two to look after now. Ken 2AKK, of Gladesville, has just been married, congrats and best wishes Ken, hope it won't keep you off the air too much. Bob 2QR heard talking about getting going on 2 mx with gear lent by 2BG.

The following notes of the activities of the Gladesville Radio Club, kindly supplied by their Publicity Officer, Ken Andrew. Newly elected: Horrie Lapthorne, Pres.; Graham Allen, Sec., Mac Brown, Treas., Allan Tollow, Alan Llewellyn and Chas Freyer, Com.; Keith Alcock, QSL Officer, Ken Andrew, Vice-Pres., Librarian, Pub. Officer, etc., etc. One of the outstanding club fixtures this year was the camping week-end at Garie Beach, under the guiding hand of 2HL—this proved a great success.

WESTERN SUBURBS

Despite the odd and infrequent good conditions on the bands of late, there has been a considerable amount of activity during the last month. Several of the locals are experimenting with antennae of reduced dimensions for use in confined spaces on 14 Mc, 2AIA, 2ANC, 2ARA and 2ACD are all concerned using different types of array, which is leading to a certain amount of discussion on the subject. 2AXZ heard and contacted on 40 and 20, with a yearning for 10. 2AAB going to Urunga, built a brand new mod. and assures us it is good.

2APT still playing with full sized beams, gives a good account of itself. 2AHP fiddling with beams, only six S points back to front. 2AHU is really hitting the highs this month. 2KW appears to be a regular on 20 at night, fine sig John. 2XH still doing a good job, not heard much of late. 2AGX is another one doing very nicely, teeing up the questions and answers. 2ZF is keen on contacts with his s.s.s.c.; co-operation is necessary to get any place with his experiments.

2AWU the only chap around here to work DX regularly, the beam is really f.b. 2OQ not heard on 20 for some time, hear that he has the 144 Mc bug. Sorry to hear of the sickness of Joyce 2AMJ's father, hope to hear you soon Jack. 2ID appears to be getting his share at almost any time, must get the recipe. 2ABO is operating 20 with a rotating dipole, also on 144 Mc. again. 2MH on holidays at Kennebri, operated portable up there. 2AMP on most bands recently, nice to hear you again Geoff. These notes by courtesy of Ted 2ACD.

NORTH COAST AND TABLELANDS

By the time these notes have been printed the third Urunga Convention will be history to be remembered and I trust you all had a splendid time. A full report on the proceedings will appear in the next issue for those who were unable to be in it. The North Coast Zone has had quite a few visitors this month, and conversely a number of N/C boys have gone visiting. Mick 2ARF had a few days with Alf 2UC at Lismore. VR1D and VR2HJ are holidaying near Urunga and Laurie 2MH spent a period at Kennebri and returned to Sydney via Tamworth. A visitor to Grafton is 2AWH Harold who is spending Easter with his folk. Ken 2APB has journeyed to Queensland to undertake further training with D.C.A., whilst Doug 2SH has gone to Parkes for a few weeks.

Not a month passes that some member of the N/C gang does not crash up a car! Latest exponents of the art are Taree Bill 2AEY and Don 2YU. It is said that Bill succeeded in cracking the chassis in two places and Don made a real job of his. Jack 2JK is back on 40 once again after deciding to give it away! A new voice may soon be heard from Kempsey in the person of Bruce Murphy, no call at time of writing, shouldn't be long now. Terry 2AJS on holidays for a few weeks, heard on 20 mx. Len 2LR busy building a new Tx in a small space, working out very well.

COALFIELDS AND LAKES

2ANU returned from his holidays at Mona Vale with much gear and many ideas, on the way with a new xtal controlled converter for 144 Mc. 2VU can now listen on 144 Mc. using double conversion by feeding his responser unit into the main Rx. 2UZ chasing DX on 20 mx using new beam with good results. 2ADT consistently working into Sydney on 144 Mc. and also managed to catch some VK5s on 50 Mc. when the band opened. 2KF is also working on 20 mx. 2KZ rebuilding, held up by lack of vital parts. 2YL has not reported his usual one night's activity for the month, don't let that work get you down Harry. 2RU has completed the beam for 2 mx (4 over 4) and has now only to paint and erect it. 2KR active on 40 mx and 144 Mc., made history by putting a signal into Cessnock on 144 from the waterlogged wonderland. 2GA works 6 and 40 mx and plans to take Cec to Urunga again this year. Even 2LX was heard on 40 mx this month.

SOUTH COAST

The Wollongong Club class is getting the final brush up in readiness for the exam. One of the boys worked his first WS (W5OLG) on 40 mx using 35w. and getting one S point less than a local Ham using 100w., which speaks well of the club rig which is made out of old b.c. sets. The club call is VK2AMW. Eric 2DY is very busy building a 2 and 6 mx Tx and hopes to be finished before going to Urunga. Jim 2AXG not quite so busy calling CQ, as he is now back at his drug store after having been laid up for 11 months and is now helping the locals to seek cures not CQs. Howard 2AMD busy chasing DX on 20 mx using his new rack and panel job running 8w. John 2AUB busy building a new rig and with the knowledge gained at the club and during his training at R.A.A.F., Richmond, we expect something good so hurry up John. Charles 2MT heard working a GW on 40 mx and doing a fine job, but do not run the beam too hot! 2UK and 2VH still home-building for the next two months, so will not hear from them for some time yet.

Jim 2AKM waiting for the a.c. power mains to his new QTH at Barracks Head, Shellharbour; he's been looking along the road for so long that I am sure he will need glasses now. Harry 2AOX not had the best of health out his way; cheer up Harry, and hope to hear you soon. Col 2AGZ busy building, not heard much of late. Col 2ASF conspicuous by his absence lately. Perhaps having a well-earned rest after the bush fires down Eden way or maybe having a long sleep to make up for lost time.

HUNTER BRANCH

A representative gathering from most Hunter Valley towns was present at the Annual Meeting held at the Technical College, Newcastle, on 14th March. Although his calling prevents him actively partaking in Ham Radio these days, Allan Fairhall, M.H.R. (2KB), came along, indicating he is still first and foremost a good Hunter Branch man. Allan took the chair at the invitation of the retiring Chairman while the President was being elected. The following officers were chosen by members to act on their behalf in the ensuing year: Pres., Lionel Swain 2CS, Vice-Pres., John Clarke 2DZ, Sec., Varley Fitton 2SF, Treas., Bill Hall 2XT. Nominated for President, John 2DZ declined to oppose Lionel to whom he paid a glowing tribute. Pleasure was expressed by all at the election to office of 2DZ and 2XT, both of whom are hard workers for the Branch and Institute.

Many interesting facts were given to members by Lew Ansell 2TO, who is O.I.C. Newcastle Police Radio, when he spoke on "Development of Police Radio Communications." Lew paid tribute to pioneering work done by Hams in the Force since the network started in 1924. Some eight thousand messages a year are handled in Newcastle now.

W8SGH/mobile marine, radio officer on S.S. Michael J. Goulandris, was recently in Newcastle; Howard Walp hails from New Orleans Louisiana. Another visitor was 4KS, winner phone section Jubilee DX Contest. Keith and family en route VK5 on caravan holiday called on 2AHA. Last, but not least, among the visitors was Taree Bill 2AEY.

Once again I'm indebted to 2DG for Maitland doings. Congrats to Keith on winning another Contest. Has just been advised by Swedish Amateur Society that he has been awarded first place in c.w. section 1950 European DX Contest. 2VQ enjoying holidays, hopes to put phone on the air soon. Another who has had short but well-earned break is 2AKP. Vic working hard and can't get near Tx. John 2XQ working Ws on 80 phone. 2CN on 20 with a nice sig, Bert reports trouble with beam motor gears. Another to make a come-back is 2IS, Ivan is modulating well and has acquired two 805s and an 826. Holidaying at Forster, Harry 2AFX is putting out a solid signal from 2AHA's Bendix RA10 Tx, YLs permitting! Varley 2SF got his c.c. 807 keying well on 40. 2PJ has joined the "Old Gentlemen" on 80 with f.b. sig from 8 watts, Bill has new freq. meter with xtal check and monitor perking well.

2AXM is building new final around an 813. It's true boys, the old 2FP is re-building, Ernie is putting in a couple of 35Ts; his new neighbour 2OT started with portable but Max has his 813 in commission now and beefing it out. Talking of neighbours, Phil 2ANG has shifted QTH, almost next door to 2ZC! 2AAI has new QRO rig with p.p. 807s on 20 but Ron still playing with modulator. 2MR not on 20 yet but Edgar hopes to make it soon. 2ARK has XYL home again so Mac has more time for Ham Radio; interested in Rothman modulator. 2CI usually manages to QSO 2WI on Sundays for report and comments on b.c. George 2AGD is mostly on 20. Norm 2ANA rag-chewing on 40 phone.

Notice of Meeting.—The May meeting will be held on Friday, 9th, at the Technical College, Tighes Hill, Newcastle. Listen 2WI for details.

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VICTORIA

CENTRAL WESTERN ZONE

One is surprised at the way a grudge is stored up for years and years until the right moment. That villian, 3GN, waited for years to get even with 3YW, and was I caught bending? George even rolled in shortly after to see if I had got my breath back. George, by the way, is putting out a nice signal with a very temporary antenna and the Type 3, the big rig is still on ice. 3DP for the time being has gone all DX, with 100wt. to an 834 on 14 Mc. c.w.; Jim can bowl them over whenever they appear and has quite a bag to date. 3HL may or may not be trying to emulate 3WI and put out transmissions on 7 and 3.5 Mc. all at once as on the last zone hook-up 3ARM could copy Allan nicely thank you while he was going on 40 mx, ho-hum.

After checking 28 Mc. daily for weeks, 3ARL missed a beautiful opening on the only day

he missed, never mind Lin, we all slip sometimes, maybe it will open on the next 28-day cycle—by the way where is the 600 volt power supply? 3AKP has now lifted the QTH power supply to just on 200 volts, so should be able to appear in the not too distant future. 3XC, we believe, has not been 100 per cent. of late, cheer up Bill, nothing lasts for ever. 3AFO was heard on 7 Mc. putting out a nice sig. either I listen at the wrong time or something, but the Horsham boys seem quiet of late or have they all gone v.h.f.

3ARM has now checked up the v.f.o. with the Bendix and everything is lovely. Two new s.s.b. stations appeared on 3.5 Mc. of late, ZL4AE and ZL1AW, both have good signals, which are not difficult to read. ZL4AE has been worked to date for the first VK-ZL s.s.b. contact on 3.5 Mc.

Zone members are asked in future on zone hook-ups, if skip is long on 7150 at 1000 hours, to change to 3.5 Mc. at 1015 hours where control will be on approx. 3580 Kc. That is on the second Sunday of each month.

EASTERN ZONE

I had intended to push this job onto 3SG again this month, but after the way he libelled me last time I thought I'd better do the job myself. Les isn't a bad sort, though, and he has just discovered that p.p. 807s don't always behave as the book says they do!

The field day held on 6th April was quite a good show, with perfect weather, and much useful knowledge concerning antennae, especially top loaded ones, was gained by the mobile chaps. Graham 3QZ had a breakdown with his modulator so had to use c.w., but apparently 3ALA was the only one with a b.f.o. on his Rx! Graham did manage to slaughter an outsize in snakes though. Much enthusiasm was shown by Peter 3IZ, who sent his mate John all the way to Tinamba for some xtals, the round trip being a mere 120 miles. Apart from running out of petrol, and falling off his motor bike, John had a nice run—I hope!

The stork has been around again—Norm 3ANC and Graham 3GO, each acquiring a new YL junior op. Conditions on 80 appear to be improving and the line-up on 3550 Kc. on Sundays is very satisfactory. We are still waiting for 3IO and 3AJA to join the hook-up. What about you blokes buying a xtal between you, eh? I hope to have paid a visit to VK5 by the time this hits the newsstands, bit awkward this writing about the future, but for the benefit of a trio of v.h.f. enthusiasts—there are ominous signs that 3SS will be heard on 50 Mc. before long! Believe it or not.

NORTH EASTERN ZONE

Things were very bright at the zone hook-up with a record 14 on the air. Strangers in 3ACK and 3TS were welcomed back to the fold. 3ACW on holidays, his wanderings are not apparently being made to any set plan. Thought we would have seen you Chas. 3UI and 3APP experimenting on 288 Mc., but I never thought I would see the day when the exponents of xtal controlled converters and Tx's would descend to the low level of mod. osc. 3JC still in the midst of 20 mx beam troubles. You would never believe some of the queer things it does. Chased an I1 for a month, got the contact and lost it due to local electrical interference. Hasn't been game to look on 20 since. 3ALE has good modulation now, what did you do Les? 3YV back with us again giving lots of cheek. Ducks seem to predominate the zone hook-up. Come in all flavours, so it seems. 3KR had a visit by 2NS.

Last v.h.f. field day, 3UI and 3JC journeyed to Mt. Major and once again contacted 2PN on 2 mx. This occurrence is happening so often as not to become news any more. Most Melb. stations gave us the go by. Everything lined up for next field day which is the last. Somebody must have received the mag early this month. The picnic was mooted to be held at the suggestion of 3CI at Nac-ambee—well you asked for it Sid. However I agree with you Sid, about it being a good spot. Residents will be warned before Les 3ALE takes a plunge—flood warning, I take it. 3CI DXing on 10 mx, also working regularly on 2 mx. 3LJ buying up spare parts while in Melbourne. Now hasn't time to assemble same in desired circuits.

GEELONG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

A field night was recently arranged for members of the Club. The Tx, which operated on 80 mx under the Club's call 3ATL, was hidden by the President of the Club, 3ABK, and Peter Cartwright at Fyansford. First to arrive were 3SY, 3ALG and Max Stock. Their time was 23 min. Those operating the Tx did a good job in hiding it and added 100 yards of mike lead from the Tx.

At the next meeting several items re the Club had to be discussed, this took the whole evening up. The main item was arrangements for the forthcoming South Western Zone Convention to be held in Geelong. A visitor to the Club was Mr. Ted Blackney who was nominated for membership by 3AKE. The Geelong hook-up still takes place at 2000 hours every Thursday night.

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QUEENSLAND

By the time these notes appear in print, the new Council for the VK4 Division should be comfortably ensconced in office. Except for three new members, those who shouldered the burden last year stay put. Stout "fellas." The three new faces to grace the Council board are those of Arthur Burton 4FE, Ossie Harris 4TN, and Alf Guildford 4AP in the positions of Federal Councillor, VK4WI Station Manager, and Divisional Sub-Editor, respectively.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Presented at VK4 Annual Dinner, March 29

Gentlemen and Members—It is my privilege to present to you a resume of the Division's affairs for 1951-2. During this period, membership has decreased by 55, including 25 full members and 30 associates. However, this loss is partly offset by the enrollment of 32 new members, bringing our present total to 201 and, as most of the year lies ahead, prospects of increased membership are really good. Likewise, our finances are good as will be noted from a perusal of the balance sheet which will be sent to all members with an early issue of our own little publication, "QTC." The No. 1 Account, admittedly shows only a small cash carry over, but what must be considered is that the Division holds equipment worth approximately £150, including a modern duplicator which will more than save its cost over the ensuing years. As regards the No. 2 Account the happy result of disposal equipment sales, I am pleased to state that this is being held in trust for allocation at a later date to permanent headquarters for the VK4 Division.

Our departments, QSL Service, Station 4WI, "QTC," Library Service, etc., have been fully maintained, and, I believe, much appreciated. Council itself has functioned actively, smoothly, and with almost 100 per cent. attendance figures. We lost three councillors of real value at the termination of the year and to them I wish to tender our thanks for their unstinting [illegible]

Equipment Library—Funds and personnel now allow this much needed service to slowly come into operation. Some of the equipment for electrical measurements is available and will be added to as time permits.

Contest Committee.—This newly formed group has been busy framing contests of a local nature for VK4 members. Details will appear monthly in "QTC" and your earnest support is requested.

Student Classes.—The class, as last year, is in the capable hands of Mr Tom Atthey. Every assistance is given to those anxious to attain the A.O.C.P as it is in this section that our future will be assured.

Emergency Network.—Arthur 4AW, a past president of several years' standing, has continued with this most important section. Net membets now number 50 and areas covered include Darling Downs, Atherton Tablelands and the East coast. Members are required for the remaining country districts. Net drills are held on the third Sunday morning of each month and those anxious to participate should contact 4AW.

Somerset Dam Convention.—I was fortunate to be present at this Convention, held early this year and cannot speak in sufficiently glowing terms in praise of the tremendous efforts by Messrs. 4PD and 4GG to make the "Do" the success it really was. It is not necessary for me to add that more functions of like kind are eagerly awaited.

Station VK4WI.—Almost without exception 4WI has been on the air every Sunday morning for the dissemination of Divisional news to both country and city members. Our sincere thanks go to the past Station Managers, 4FN and 4WD, for their sterling work in winning and holding members. In connection with 4WI, I must strongly stress that there is always an urgent need for news—remember the other fellow is just as interested in your doings as you are in his. Direct all items of interest to the new Station Manager, Ossie 4TN and thus help him maintain the high standard of past broadcasts.

In a short report such as this, I cannot cover the whole of our Divisional activities. However, we have adopted a new universal Divisional Constitution which so far suits our needs and could possibly be the forerunner of the federation of our divisions. Also we have done, and will continue to do, everything possible to uphold Queensland Division's interests and affairs to the high standards set in the past. As regards yourself, a member of this Division, I would like you on occasions throughout the year to consider your justification as an Amateur, and give thought to the privileges you now enjoy. In this connection I suggest that you pay more attention to the use of the high frequency channels; that you take advantage of new technique such as s.s.s.c. transmission and reception; and that from time to time you review latest technical trends and allow these new trends to influence your radio activities.

In conclusion, I urge all members to conduct their operational activities so as to comply strictly with the regulations, and thus maintain our self government and the confidence and respect which has been shown to us in the past by the Postmaster General's Department.—(Signed) V. JEFFS (VK4VJ), President.

CLARE'S CORNER

Absent on 20 lately is 4PX—reason, new 10 mx beam. 4CC has chalked up over 100 contacts with F8FT. Ballarat visitors, 3GR and XYL here recently. Bob visited quite a few of the boys. Pleased with the results from his new vertical is 4RJ; looks forward to even better results when in new Northgate QTH. 4TT is experimenting with a ZL Special and getting his fair share of DX. Active on 20 with nice phone signal is 9BD; love to hear that laugh of 9YT's.

TOWNSVILLE ZONE (By 4RW)

Main item of interest is the addition to our ranks of new members 4BE and 4FW. A shift to a new QTH, still in the flood area, accounts for the inactivity of 4WH. 4RU just sat for a commercial ticket; hope it bobs up Wally as reward for the swotting, despite fact it will probably mean more QRM for 4RW.

As was expected, it didn't take long for Frank ex-4FN to make a welcome re-appearance under the call of 4FN. Heard him rag-chewing with Carl 4YT, Barry 4LN and some of the Brisbane lads. The only new country at 4RW this month is VP2LE of the Windward Islands. He is on the band daily around 3.30 p.m. on 14350 and suggests calls directed to him be higher in frequency in order to dodge YV5 QRM. One other item to report is that 4RW's cards, submitted for DX C.C. in both phone and open sections, have been confirmed as OK. Soon the coveted awards should be adorning the shack walls. 4QL still keeping Townsville on the map as far as c.w. is concerned. Am told Frank is consistently on the low end of 7 Mc. just after sunrise.

CONTEST ACTIVITIES

Even the most ardent epicure in the matter of contest feast couldn't complain about the tasty dishes our newly-formed VK4 Contest Committee has cooked up for us over the next twelve months. Yes, there is something doing every month and, on first thoughts, I was very much afraid the old blokes, like myself, who have been in the game long enough for their XYLs to frown with disdain on radio contests, to feel a little perturbed over so much proposed activity. But rest easy, our sponsors have made no contest arrangements that will interfere with domestic bliss or call for a 24 hour binge with the "hangover" attached. The contests are exclusively for VK4 members and in the framing of them several good objectives have been kept in mind. One of them is to provide periods of friendly competition with all the fun and excitement that such rivalry brings out. Another is to furnish a test of equipment—during these workouts who doesn't learn ways to improve gear? Other objectives are to encourage those who have good gear to use it more often, and for those who use one band only to show more versatility by their ability to work all or most bands.

Remember, these contests, or perhaps a better way of putting it would be operating activities, are sponsored for your enjoyment, and if you can see any way in which they can be improved, the Contest Committee would be glad to have your ideas on the subject.

Brief details of the May Test, which is more in the nature of a QSL hunt than a contest, are as follows: During May VK4 members will endeavour to work as many stations as possible outside Australia. Two sections are provided—c.w. and phone. Contestants may enter either section or both. There is no open section. Scoring is on the basis of one point for each contact and a multiplier of the number of countries worked. Good news is that users of single element antennae receive a bonus multiplier of two (2) which means that the beam boys will not start with a 6 to 10 db advantage.

Judging will be in December, based on the number of QSL cards received and sent through the Bureau until 1st December, 1952. Prizes will be awarded for both sections with additional special prizes for the best 7 Mc. only and 3.5 Mc. only entries.

[It is regretted that the VK4 personal pars have had to be severely cut.—Editor.]

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The monthly general meeting of the VK5 Division for March took the form of a buy and sell night, although in this "refrained" State of South Australia, it must be called a tender and disposal night in case the local policeman on the beat might pass the clubroom doors and hear the auctioneer calling for bids. Wouldn't it? Anyway, it was a good night and the large audience enjoyed themselves immensely at the antics of the tender receiver (auctioneer to you), Dougal 5BY. Quite a lot of good gear changed hands. Quite a number of articles submitted were beautiful examples of the craftman's art, but one fact stands out at these buy and sell nights, and that is that nobody has big money to spend and only the bits and pieces get any bids. The lesson to learn from this undeniable fact is that if you have anything to get rid of, spend a little time in dismantling it and let them bid for the tiddley bits. You will be pleased with the result.

Among the visitors were Messrs. P. McEwen, R. Hellyor, D. Harewood, A. Halliday, L. Carpenter, G. Basson, R. Capon, A. Williamson, M. Marshall (3MM), L. Baker (5OB) and last but not least, my one-time espionage agent from Darwin, Ray Latta (5RA). "Doc" Barbier 5MD, our respected President, was in the chair, looking fit and well again, and the business side of the tenders and disposals was efficiently handled by Tom 5TL, Hal 5AW, Dave 5DH, John 5KX, Jack 5JD and that athletic looking bundle of business acumen, "Pansy" 5PS.

You have all realised by now that the W.I.A. exhibit at the Royal Adelaide Exhibition is an assured success and all those VK5 members who gave of their energy, time, and equipment can sit back and accept the plaudits of the crowd. It was a job well done toward bringing Ham Radio before the general public, and despite the moanings of one or two "Mother Grundy's" who professed to be disappointed with the set-up, the exhibit more than achieved its object, and when it was announced that a silver medal had been awarded to the exhibit, then the boys behind the effort felt that their goal had been reached. To mention any one individual in connection with the exhibit would only be unfair to all those who worked so hard to make it a success, but I feel that Max 5GF is worthy of some mention as he lent most of his station to the exhibit and in his quiet modest way put his shoulder to the wheel in no uncertain manner.

Harry 5KW sent a letter of appreciation and thanks to the VK5 Council concerning the installation and operation of the Type 3 Mark II. at his bedside whilst he was anchored in Northfield Hospital as a polio patient. Quite a number of members were not aware that the VK5 Division had this equipment available for bedridden Hams, and quite a lot of complimentary remarks were passed regarding the Council members for having used their "noodles" and purchased the gear.

John 5JG, who secured first place in the National Field Day Contest for VK5 was presented with the certificate at the general meeting. There is no doubt about these quiet blokes, take your eyes off them for a second and the next thing you know they have shot to the front and don't stop until the post is reached. Nice work John, but did you have to look so ashamed when you collected the certificate, after all it was an honour, not a summons!

Noticed Associate member Allan Hunter at the general meeting, he is usually too busy to come along. This chap is the radio man with the Electricity Trust's changeover from 210 to 240, and speaking from experience, nothing is too much trouble for him and no problem too big. They don't come any better, and in case you should think I have an axe to grind, well you are wrong. Mine is already sharpened!

Had a chat with Ray 5RA from Darwin who was down for the meeting. He gave me a good line-up on things at Darwin and explained that the lack of news from that quarter was due to the fact that the boys were on the move so much that when the notes appeared in the mag. it was stale.

An item in a recent issue of "Amateur Radio" passed unnoticed by quite a number of VK5 Hams, due principally to a misprint of the call sign, and also due to the fact that very few believed that it could be possible. I refer to the fact that Jack 5KO had given away Amateur Radio. Known to all in VK5 as Johnny, he occupied the rather dubious position of "Father Confessor" to all VK5 Hams, and incidentally has done more for Amateur Radio, in his quiet and efficient way, than any ten Hams put together. During the anxious days that followed the last war, when Amateur Radio in VK5 was drifting around in uncertainty, Johnny, with a firm belief in the future, was the driving force behind the newly organised VK5 Division, and his infectious enthusiasm was responsible in no small manner for the foundation of the success, which is our proud boast today. I could write a lot more than this, but it would only be gilding the lily, although he is far from being a lily, suffice to say that Amateur Radio in VK5 has lost a stalwart, and we can only hope that the "bug" will bite again and bite hard. Incidentally, if you think that he will be appreciative of all that I have written, then let me assure that you were never so wrong, in fact I will have to dodge him for the next few months because he will kick me right where I sit down if he catches up with me. Sorry Johnny, but my conscience wouldn't let me rest if I did not put my pen to paper in salute to a true Ham.

John 5JA is still settling in after his marriage and hopes to be on the air about Easter time. He did not state what year! Tom 5TW is also quiet although he has had a few contacts on 20 and 40 mx. Claude 5CH is still out in the country with no power and no Tx. Can you imagine it, here is a joker with a power plant of his own, and he is forced to rely on smoke signals or something. Claude I am disappointed in you. Erg 5KU is making slow progress with his beam and all I can say is "Remember Bruce and the spider," or was it "Alfred and the cakes."

John 5FD has a couple of sticks up in the air but as yet there is no signs of any activity. Stuart 5MS has at last shifted into his new home but is still waiting for the power, so it goes without saying that he is also among the quiet ones. Col 5CJ has had a few contacts on 40 mx but is also quiet. Say, I am sick of using this word quiet when speaking about the South East boys, so the best thing I can do is to remain quiet myself. Who said impossible, fling him to the lions.

5MA has been too busy picking grapes at his new QTH in Renmark to even think of going on the air as yet, but Fred has not been posted as hopeless by the Berri boys at the time of writing. 5BC has not been very active this month having had much more important things to occupy his attention, but Hughie has been getting plenty of publicity in the Ham magazines for his good work on the v.h.f. frequencies, so that makes him well satisfied. Incidentally, Hugh, I did not get time to wish you well in the new job and say goodbye, but I know that you took that as spoken. It was a pleasure working with you.

5CF has been working back quite a lot this month and has not been so active as of recent months. When is that sooper dooper special Rx coming along Murray? 5KW has been having some oscillator troubles with p.p. 807s and decided to take the advice of those who learnt the hard way and replaced them with an 834. Harry is getting on real well again after his recent battle with polio. 5SL has been heard on occasionally when conditions are OK. Laurie has not put the h.t. on the recently completed 834 final, but look out chaps when he does, he has been getting S9 reports with 10w. input to a 6V6 final. He will be returning to the "best etc. etc." any day now and we will have him singing the praises of the "best etc. etc." very smartly.

5KR has returned to the air after an absence of over 18 months and has built a new shack. Vic is only using the exciter stages of his rig at the moment, but the 100w. final will be hooked up as soon as he is sure that all is well. 5ZR received an S9 report from 5WI at the Royal Adelaide Exhibition the other night which in itself is probably nothing out of the ordinary, but as he was only working on a dummy antenna (a 60w. lamp), it was not so bad. 5VO who has tried just about all types of modulation known to man has at last seen the light and installed a plate modulator. Alan borrowed a mod. tranny from John 5HI which worked so well that John has asked for its return! 5LW was heard telling the world about the annual fishing trip that he and Max 5GF will be undertaking at Easter. Ross is taking enough food for one day, plus a bag of spuds, a pound of butter, a tin of fat, and a loaf of bread. The fish must bite!

5DP is trying out a rather novel type of ground plane antenna on 20 mx. The vertical element is 16 feet 8 inches of 1 inch dural tubing fed with 80 ohm twin lead using the roof of his QTH as the ground. The ground wave is collossal, but so far the DX has not had a good try out. What happens when you pull the plug out of the bath Ted? 5PH has been so busy on the S.A.R. diesel electric cars that he has had no time for such commonplace things as radio. Pere spends a lot of his spare time in planting daffodils, and as he gained the Grand Champion at the last Royal show, he must know his onions. Pardon the mixed metaphor. He also blows a wicked trumpet in the local band, so it is no wonder that he has no time for radio. Thanks for the offer re the gear Perc.

This paragraph is going to hurt me more than it hurts you, boys, but it is sometimes necessary to be cruel to be kind. At 9.59 p.m. on the 1st of April, Federal Executive officially advised the VK5 Division that the VK5 Division had decided to accept associate members to its ranks. My crack at the VK6 Division regarding associate members, apparently was not as stale as friend 6AG would have us believe, because I made it in February. Your apology is accepted, fellow sub-editor, and incidentally OM, keep up the good work, your notes are attracting considerable attention in this State, and I am not "crawling!" The ball is on your side of the net!

My arch enemy "Doc" 5MD will be given the opportunity to write next month's notes, thus getting a little of his own back during my annual vacation.

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Now I know what Pharaoh felt like. Talk about seven fat years and seven lean! In March I was bombarded with (very welcome) news and notes from everywhere. This month there is not a scratch of a pen from anyone. Even Rolo has let me down. So, turning to the "scandal book" (my notebook which reposes handy to the Rx) and my fertile imagination—here goes.

If another war breaks out and any of you fellows want to settle into a nice, cushy job, try the codes and cyphers branch. And to help

you along towards promotion to at least the rank of a brigadier-general, here's some real inside stuff. To make documents hard, difficult or even impossible to decipher follow these hints. First, get yourself some paper of tissue thinness—cigarette paper will do if you have any but even that's rather thicker than I recommend. Next, get a "mill" of 1916 vintage (or earlier) and proceed to type whatever it is you don't want the enemy to decipher. Type all over the face of the paper, then turn over and carry on on the reverse side. If your paper is thin enough, the typewriter old enough, and the ribbon battered enough, you'll fool the enemy, gain rapid promotion, and turn in a passable imitation of VK6 Divisional Minutes as supplied to me. (Moved 6HL that 6WZ be asked to resign forthwith or even sooner!)

Having remonstrated with 6HM over running too close to the deadline for these notes with the birth of his baby daughter a month or two back, I now find myself forced to admit that Mary Elizabeth 6WZ arrived in Geraldton on the 6th of the month, about three or four days after her dutiful father had posted his notes to Melbourne. Wouldn't it? Still, I'm getting used to hearing her S9 plus signal at about 0300 hours each morning and anyway, what does that matter? Everyone who sees her says she's a beautiful kid—which ain't surprising when you cast an eye over her father. (Or is it? Don't answer that.)

The 7 Mc. band has been doing the most amazing things during past weeks. Contacts between country and city have been most erratic and to cap 6LG's effort in hearing ZS stations on phone at the height of the day, yours truly heard (and called—ha! ha! what an optimist!) a ZS on c.w. at 12.20 p.m. on recent Sunday. Need I say no contact resulted? I need not. The same band brought to light an HB9 station (you heard—an HB9) during March and what's more, several of the boys worked him. Before the Eastern States VKs begin tearing their hair or booking their passages to the sunny West, I should add that HB9GX/MM was operating on 7 Mc. in Fremantle Harbour!

The price of the "Woden" Modulation Transformers, advertised by Wm. Willis & Co. on page 8, is £11/6/6 including Sales Tax.

6CN has left Geraldton and is now set-up in his own business as a master pill-roller at Kellerberrin. The Geraldton boys will miss you, Cyril, and wish you every success in your venture. If Cyril still remains a Ham after all that's happened to him in recent years, then I "dips me lid" to him. First of all, on d.c. for a spell, then he moved from the small beach-cottage he had occupied to a larger house in an a.c. area, but at a time when no new connections to the service were being made. He had to endure that (a.c. laid on to nearby houses, but none for 6CN) for a couple of years, then, at long last, came the a.c. Cyril began slowly (as time permitted and it didn't permit much or often) to completely re-build the rig in a totally-enclosed type of steel cabinet. At the time of leaving Geraldton, Cyril hadn't quite completed that de luxe rig. Did he take it with him? No he sold it—for at his new QTH—yes, you've guessed it—he's back on d.c. again! Wotta saga!

Another bloke who should make you city-slickers pause and think how lucky you are is 6RT. After some years on batteries, wind-chargers, "donks" and genemotors, Len spent about 12 months in Cue on 220 volts d.c. After his term there did they send him to be headmaster of a large metropolitan school? They did not. They posted him to Bindi Bindi where there's no a.c., d.c. or any other kind of c. (except that in Len's tank circuits!). Nothing daunted, Len bought a small engine and a 220-volt motor, revamped the latter to act as a generator, and laid on his own d.c. mains. After some preliminary bother suppressing noise, he is now on the air on 80 and 40 with low power but getting out quite well.

6BR who is now a Geraldton-ite is inactive in the Ham game at the moment, but is busy with study, hunting around for a block of land and practising hypnotism. Fair dinkum! Not the kind of hypnotism you chaps use to convince the XYL that Ham Radio is a wonderful hobby but the real McCoy. As the a.c. may be very much nearer 6WZ's QTH by the time these notes appear, I must get Barry to give me a few lessons. With plenty of 50-cycle stuff around the house I might put in a pair of 813s in p.p., then when the R.I. comes around I'll make a few passes in front of him and he'll go away convinced that they're only 5V6s and I'm running a paltry 20 watts!

6WD of Northam was heard recently; where have you been Wally? Still on d.c.? 3.5 Mc. seems to have shown a little promise lately and 6LG and 6RT are known to have been active. Wonder if Lionel has been on there yet? Heard him on 7 Mc. the other day telling someone all his woes. By the way, OM, who's the "we" I hear you referring to so often?

Recent Institute happenings have been well publicised in both broadcasts and circulars so there is no need to go over stale news here where space is valuable. One point, however, seems to deserve comment and that is the suggestion that general meetings should deal with resignations in much the same way as they deal with applications for membership, the feeling being that as the monthly meeting is responsible for beginning one's membership it should also be charged with accepting or rejecting one's resignation if and when such is tendered. That seems to be a point of view no one could quibble over.

The new Council for 1952 was elected without there being more than the required number of nominations—indeed there was actually one less than the nine needed—therefore there was no need for a ballot. One extra member to make up the nine will be co-opted. Those nominated and declared elected are 6HC, 6AG, 6KW, 6RU, 6kO, 6KU, 6GM and 6LJ.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all those who wrote to me with news for the April issue and to apologise to them for not having answered them direct by mail owing to pressure of work. Perhaps by the time this appears I'll have written to you chaps and also perhaps you may feel disposed to repeat the process. No scribe can have too many spies.

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TASMANIA

For those of you not already aware, the following officers have been elected: President, Bob O'May 7OM, re-elected; Secretary, Ted Evans 7FJ; Assist. Secretary, Bob Fulton 7AF; Treasurer, Sid Excell 7SJ; and Disposals Officer, Tom Allen 7AL. In passing, I feel sure I am voicing the wishes of all, when I extend to the retiring Secretary, Len Edwards, our very sincere thanks for a job well done. Len was untiring in his efforts to render service to the Institute, and I am certain that many, if not all, were sorry when it was realised that he could not see his way clear to continue. A big "thank you" also goes to the retiring Treasurer, Brian Hall, for his contribution in the past year of office. In farewelling the "old," we must not neglect the "new," and our best wishes are extended to those newly appointed officers, mentioned earlier. It is hoped that you will favour them with your continued support, and thus help to form the Institute into an even more united body.

Jack 7JB is now ensconed in Kure, Japan, and is being kept quite busy with matters military. Having untangled certain licence difficulties, Jack hopes to show up soon now in the 20 mx band, with a mere 600w. into a windham antenna. We will be listening for you Jack, and you may be called upon to enlarge on certain "mod. cons." Your XYL however, was quite adamant when she stated that she would not allow you to souvenir any of those "house girls" to bring home with you.

Two more Associate members have joined our ranks—namely, Mr. J. O. Webb, of St. Helens, and Mr. M. H. Burburgh, of Hobart. In addition, Bert Clark and G. Kerrison now answer to the calls 7BC and 7XO respectively. Is it a fact Bert that you intend opening on 570 Mc., or is it just idle rumour?

It should not be long now before 7FM is back on the air again. An enforced silence, brought about by a non-co-operative h.t. transformer, is due to terminate any time now. Secretary 7FJ found himself with much to do, and little time to do it in, but he made it in time for the Sunday broadcast. A nice signal Ted, and modulation very pleasing to the ear. 7LE joins 7DH with 144 Mc. equipped auto, and it seems to me that the best way to express it is "If they have halos, you know they are not police." Keith 7RX is contemplating 2 mx, but somehow I feel that 20 mx will have to completely collapse first. What about proving me wrong Keith?

Attempts at 144 Mc. relays have been made by 7LE and 7OM, the first on 9th March and later on 6th April. The first attempt resulted in excellent two-way communication being established from Mt. Wellington to 7AJ and 7DH at Mt. Seymour, and on 6th April similar results were obtained from Mt. Wellington to northern members at the 7ZX Tx site. The foregoing, in greater detail, will no doubt be covered by 7AJ in his v.h.f. notes.

The April meeting was held at the usual place on 3rd April. Some 20 odd members attended, and the main business discussed was agenda items for the 22nd Federal Convention, followed by an auction sale of surplus radio equipment. Star turn of the sale was 7AL's rather expensive purchase, by proxy, of some xtal grinding materials. Getting two chaps to bid for you, unbeknown to each other, is certain to cause inflation Tom!!!

NORTHERN TASMANIAN ZONE

V.h.f. officer 7LZ has been very busy recently organising the 144 Mc. field day for 6th April, and everything including the weather, went off without a hitch. 7PF and 7LZ pooled their equipment and operated the gear throughout the day whilst 7AM provided the transport. Members of the zone who assisted in one way or another were 7GM, 7LX, 7XW and Associates Geoff Dineen, Graeme Nicholls, and Ron Rich. First class communication was had with 7OM and 7LE on Mt. Wellington and 7KB in Burnie, but VK3 proved very elusive. The site used was a few yards south of the aerial system of b.c. station 7EX (who made a.c. power available) and is nearly 1,000 ft. above sea level.

Prior to this field day there had been considerable activity on 144 Mc. as beams and equipment were tuned up. 7AM is erecting a 12 element beam painted "cornflower blue," whilst 7LZ uses "silver" and 7PF has his in "brick red." Is anyone game to use "Pansy pink?"

7 Mc. came good recently in the early evening hours. 7RK could be heard upholding the c.w. honor of the zone. 7LX is considering taking to c.w. again as some of his neighbours complain that they can't hear the other side of Ken's phone QSOs. Rumour has it that 7XW has actually been copying Ws on 7 Mc. c.w. and actually took the key out of moth balls. 7DS, 7TE, 7DB, 7HY, 7CA and 7RB appear to have gone into retirement for the time being, but all hope to become active again as soon as time permits.

A recent visitor has been Max 3AKM who has been taking his holidays in VK7 land.

Attendances at zone meetings have shown an improvement recently so remember it is the second Friday in each month and the more that turn up the better it is for the zone, so how about doing YOUR part.

HAMADS

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AR301/ASV Receiver converted for 144, want Class "C" Wavemeter, D104 or N80, or sell. 6 Queens Road, New Lambton, 2N.

EXCHANGE.—Type 3 Mk. II. complete and 4½w. portable modulator for Communication Receiver, BC348, etc. Cash adjustment if required. C. Blackmore, Kerang, P.O., Vic.

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FOR SALE.—Palec Model VCT-V Valve and Circuit Tester, good order, £15. J. Oliver, Latrobe, Tasmania.

FOR SALE.—R107 8-valve Rx covering 1.1 Mc. to 17.5 Mc. in 3 bands. 12v. d.c. and 150-250v. a.c. pwr. supply with handbook, £25. B. Powell, c/o. A.N.Z. Bank, 394 Collins St., Melb. (M 1951 Ext. 11).

FOR SALE.—Type W1081 Frequency Meter, £16; Beam Motors, £4; 6 mx Tx, £8; 10 and 20 mx Tx, £12; 40-80 mx Tx, £9; 40w. Mod., £30. B. E. Cabena, 20 Uvadale Gr., Kew; Haw. 2571.

TA12D completely converted for 80, 40, 20, partially for 10. To sell or exchange for modulator for 100 watts. Call or write 3 Ardoch St., Essendon.

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